

A **TRUE** BOOK



# The South Carolina Colony



Early U.S. marines  
often flew this flag.



KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

 **SCHOLASTIC**

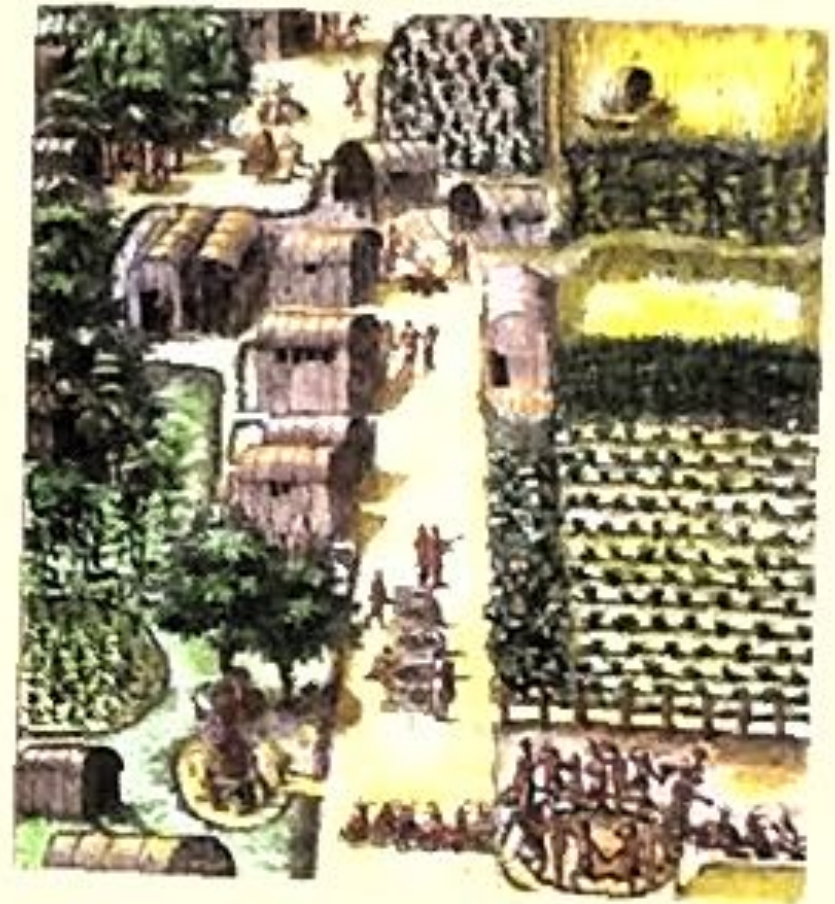


# Timeline of South Carolina Colony History

**10,000 B.C.E.**



Early Native Americans settle in present-day South Carolina and the surrounding regions.



**1521**



Spanish explorer Francisco Gordillo lands in South Carolina.

**1680**



Charles Town is founded.



**1759**



South Carolina settlers battle the Cherokee.



**1788**

South Carolina approves the U.S. Constitution.



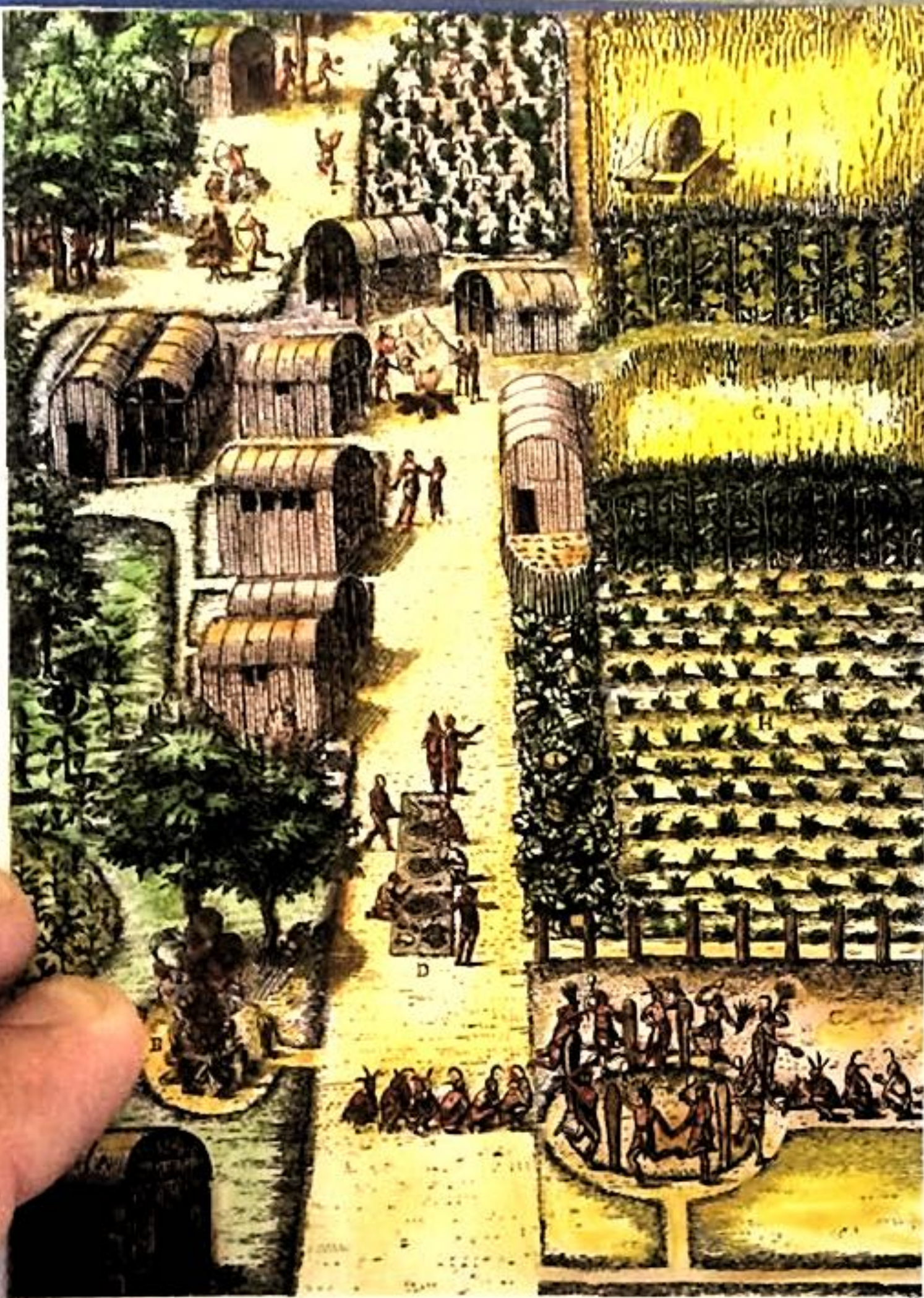




# The Native Americans

About 30 groups of native peoples inhabited South Carolina long before Europeans came to the region. The Catawba worked as farmers. Carolina Souian groups such as the Chicora built villages near the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and in the region's north and east. The Cherokee lived in dozens of villages along the Appalachian Mountains to the west. Members of the Yamasee tribe moved into the area centuries later. They had been driven out of neighboring Georgia by European settlers.





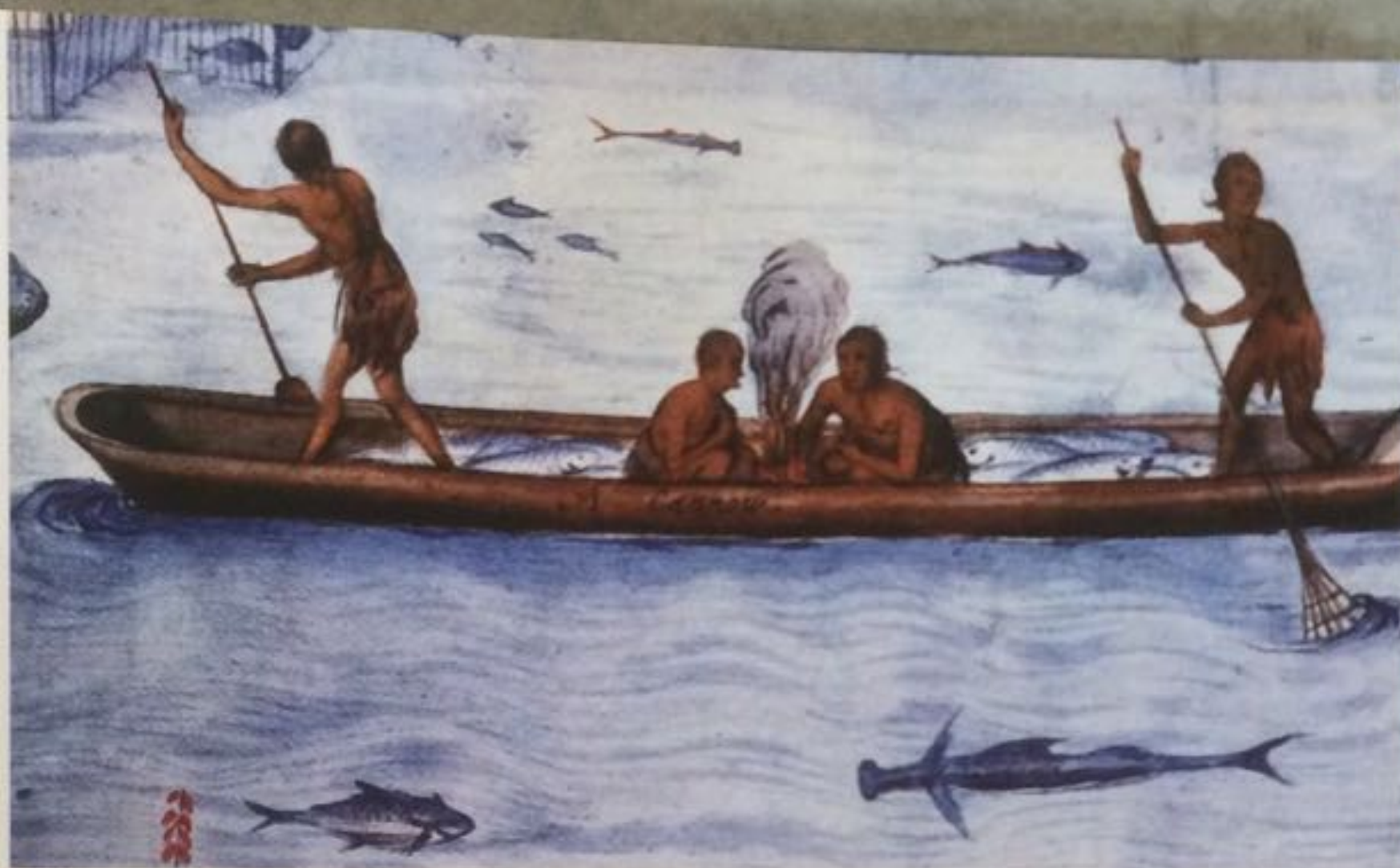
**Native groups in the Carolina region depended on farming as a major source of food.**

## The Cherokee

A Cherokee family usually included grandparents, parents, and children. A typical Cherokee village had between 30 and 60 houses. They were built around a council house used for meetings and religious ceremonies. Women were responsible for

planting and tending fields of maize (corn), squash, and beans. They also turned deerskin into leather by soaking it in water. The softened skin was then stretched and dried before being made into clothing.





↗  
The Cherokee made dugout canoes  
by hollowing out a tree trunk.

Men hunted deer and other game with wooden bows and arrows. Cherokee used the meat and skins of animals. They also crafted animal bones and antlers into tools, needles, and combs. They fished with wooden traps and nets. Other native peoples along the coast gathered seafood such as oysters. They used canoes to fish away from the shore. Women often gathered berries, nuts, and other wild plants.







# Explorers and Colonists

The Spanish started colonies in the Caribbean in 1493. The colonists immediately turned the native peoples into slaves. Many Indians died from the diseases the Europeans had brought with them. The Spanish soon sailed to North America in search of new slaves. Francisco Gordillo went ashore in June 1521. He named the land Carolana, which means “land of Charles,” after Spain’s king.





**Chicora warriors lead an attack against Ayllón and his men.**

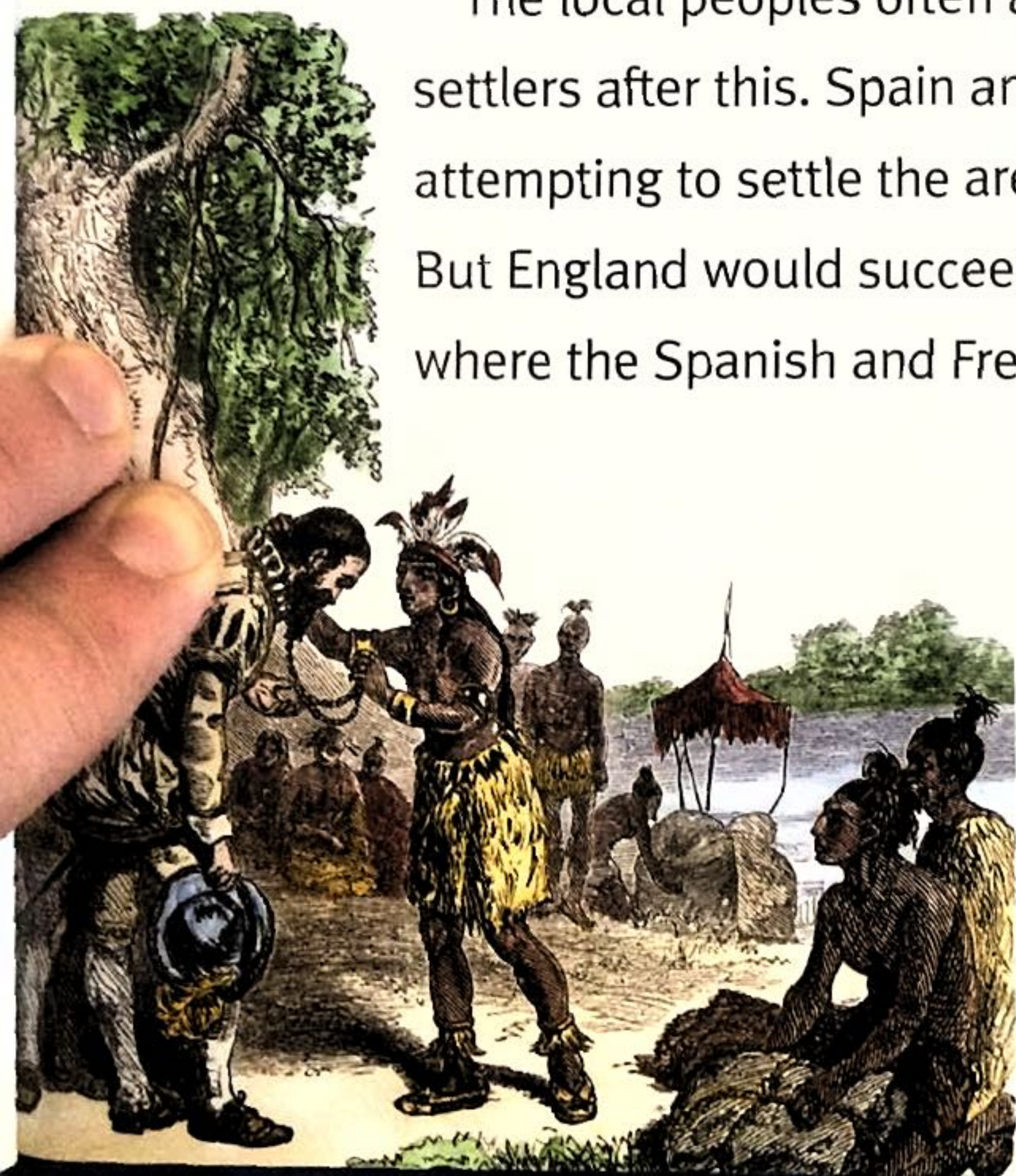
Gordillo kidnapped several Chicora people and sent them to the Caribbean. One of the Chicora learned Spanish. He told a judge named Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón that the Chicora's land was full of gold. Ayllón went back to Carolana with Chicora slaves in 1526 to search for the treasure. The Indians were now back in their homeland. They quickly ran away. Ayllón built the first European town in the region to continue his search. But sickness killed him and many of his men.



## Death and Disease

Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto traveled through Cherokee lands around 1540 in search of gold. His men killed and enslaved some Cherokee. Deadly diseases brought by the Spaniards may have killed three out of four Cherokee people in the region.

The local peoples often attacked European settlers after this. Spain and France stopped attempting to settle the area by the 1580s. But England would succeed eighty years later where the Spanish and French had failed.

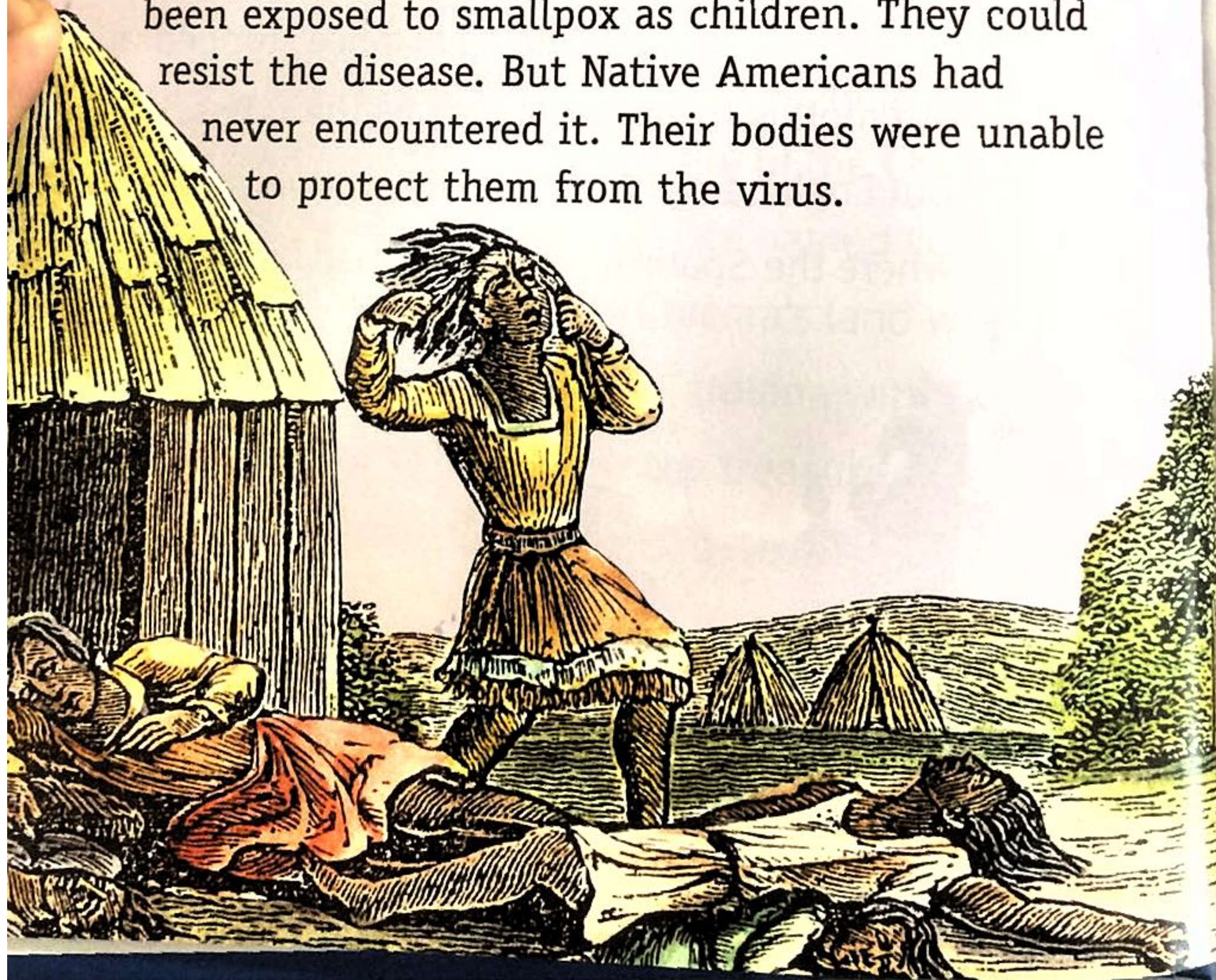


**At first, de Soto and his men were greeted warmly by the native people.**



# Smallpox

European diseases such as smallpox and measles killed many more Native Americans than guns did. Historians believe that smallpox may have been the deadliest of all the diseases. The virus causes fever, bleeding, and a rash of painful red sores that cover the body. Many European explorers had been exposed to smallpox as children. They could resist the disease. But Native Americans had never encountered it. Their bodies were unable to protect them from the virus.





This list of land grants was written in 1674.

Persons names to whom granted	Number of Acres	In what County, Parish or Township or whether River or Creek situated	Date of the Grant	Exemptions reserved thereon if any.	Nº
Lady Margaret Gorman	1070	on Gorman's Creek	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>r</sup> 1674		
Anthony Lord of Haythorn	12000	on Ashley River	18 <sup>th</sup> March 1675		
Joseph Berdarius	137		1 <sup>st</sup> Jan <sup>r</sup> 1675		
Matthew English & John Morgan	140	on Ashland River			
John Smyth	1800	on Ashley River	25 <sup>th</sup> Novem <sup>r</sup> 1675		
Stephen Bull	400	on "D <sup>r</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> October 1676		
William Jones	210	on Ashland	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan <sup>r</sup> 1676		
Maurice Mathews	402	on Ashley River	28 <sup>th</sup> April 1676		
John Boone	200		20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>r</sup> 1676		
St. Peter Colleton & Thos. Colleton Esq <sup>r</sup>	373	near D <sup>r</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep <sup>r</sup> 1677		
Edward Mathews	570	on Cooper River	15 <sup>th</sup> April 1678		
Robert Donne	150	near Charles Town	5 <sup>th</sup> August 1678		

## The English Arrive

King Charles II of England appointed eight men **proprietors** of a new **colony** in North America in 1663. He called it Carolina. Its goal was to make money for England and the proprietors by selling and renting land to settlers. The proprietors offered land cheaply to attract settlers. They also wrote a series of laws called the Fundamental Constitutions. These laws gave landowners the right to elect representatives to a **legislature**.





**Parts of Charles Town's early settlements have been rebuilt.**

The proprietors hoped to bring in settlers by claiming to offer religious freedom. This promise set Carolina apart from most of Europe. Religious **prejudice** was common there. The proprietors sent 100 settlers to a site near Port Royal by 1670. The settler ships moved up the coast to the Kiawah River after a warning from friendly local Indians. They built cabins and a dock for a settlement they called Charles Town, known today as Charleston. They settled in this safer place in 1680.

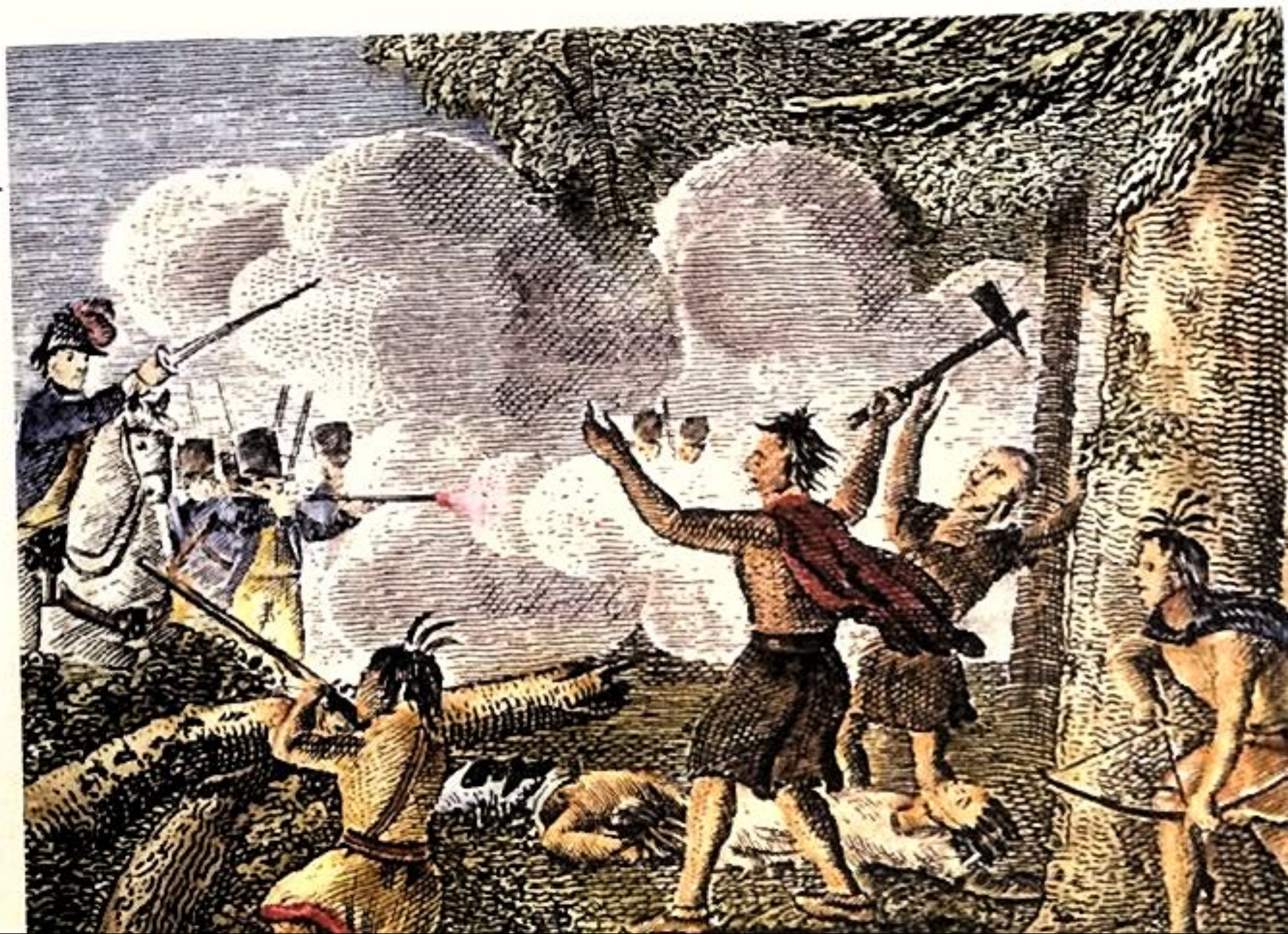


## Disasters Strike

About 1,000 English settlers had cut down forests to create farms and build settlements by then. But relations with some Native Americans grew tense as the English continued to claim native land.

Settlers often cheated Native Americans when trading with them. They also made money selling Indians into slavery. Charles Town also experienced several disasters. Fire destroyed half its houses in 1698. A hurricane also badly damaged the town.

The Yamasee fought a war against settlers from 1715 until 1716.







Charles Town quickly became a thriving port with goods being shipped to England.

## Making Money

The port of Charles Town helped the settlement recover. Trading ships sailed to England with meat and wood products such as barrels. New **cash crops** boosted Carolina's profits after 1700. The most important was rice. Rice grew well in the hot, wet weather. Growing rice required a lot of work. Owners of large farms called plantations began to bring in slaves to work the land.



## Slaves in the Colony

Settlers had used enslaved Native Americans as labor in the past. Colonists soon came to rely on enslaved people from Africa and the West Indies. Charles Town became a major city for buying and selling enslaved Africans. Slaves soon outnumbered Europeans in the colony. Most enslaved people worked on plantations. Smaller farmers sometimes owned a few slaves too. Slaves also sometimes worked as assistants to skilled tradesmen such as carpenters.

Rice was grown successfully in South Carolina as early as 1680.

**Slaves harvest rice on a Carolina rice field.**



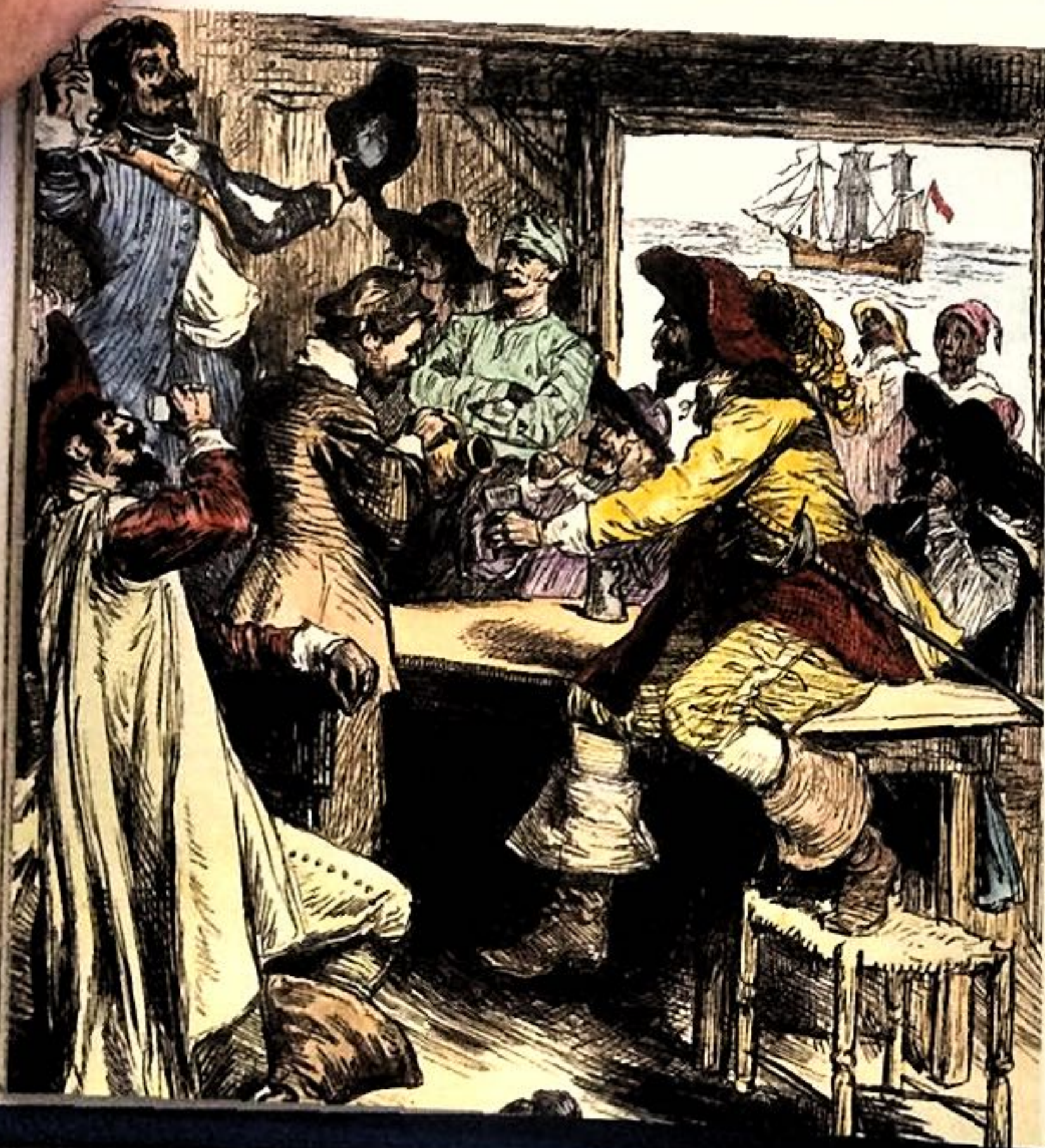


## Enemies Everywhere

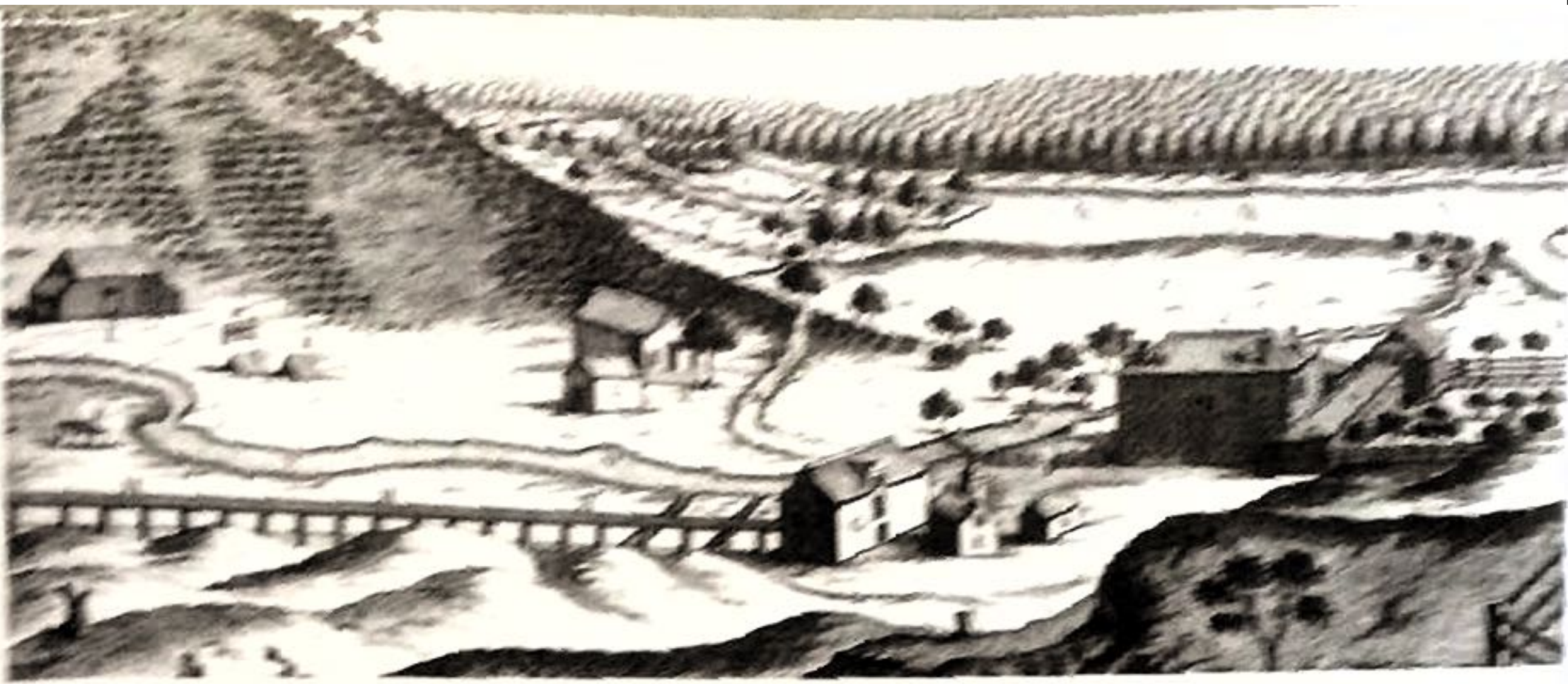
Charles Town's success made it a frequent target of enemies. Spanish and French ships attacked the settlement in 1706. The colony called out its **militia** and turned back the invaders. Clashes over land and the enslavement of Indians erupted into a two-year war between the colonists and the Yamasee in 1715. A fleet of pirate ships commanded by Edward Teach, or Blackbeard, began to attack ships

entering and leaving the city shortly after the war.

Blackbeard's career as a pirate captain lasted only two years.







South Carolina's Fort Johnson was built in 1704 to protect the Charles Town harbor and settlement.


## Becoming a Royal Colony

Carolina's militia and the Cherokee drove the Yamasee into Florida. The British navy put an end to Teach. But the colonists complained that the proprietors had done little to help them. The colony had already split into northern and southern Carolina by that time. Southern settlers asked the British king to take control of the colony and protect it. North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies under the protection of Great Britain in 1729.



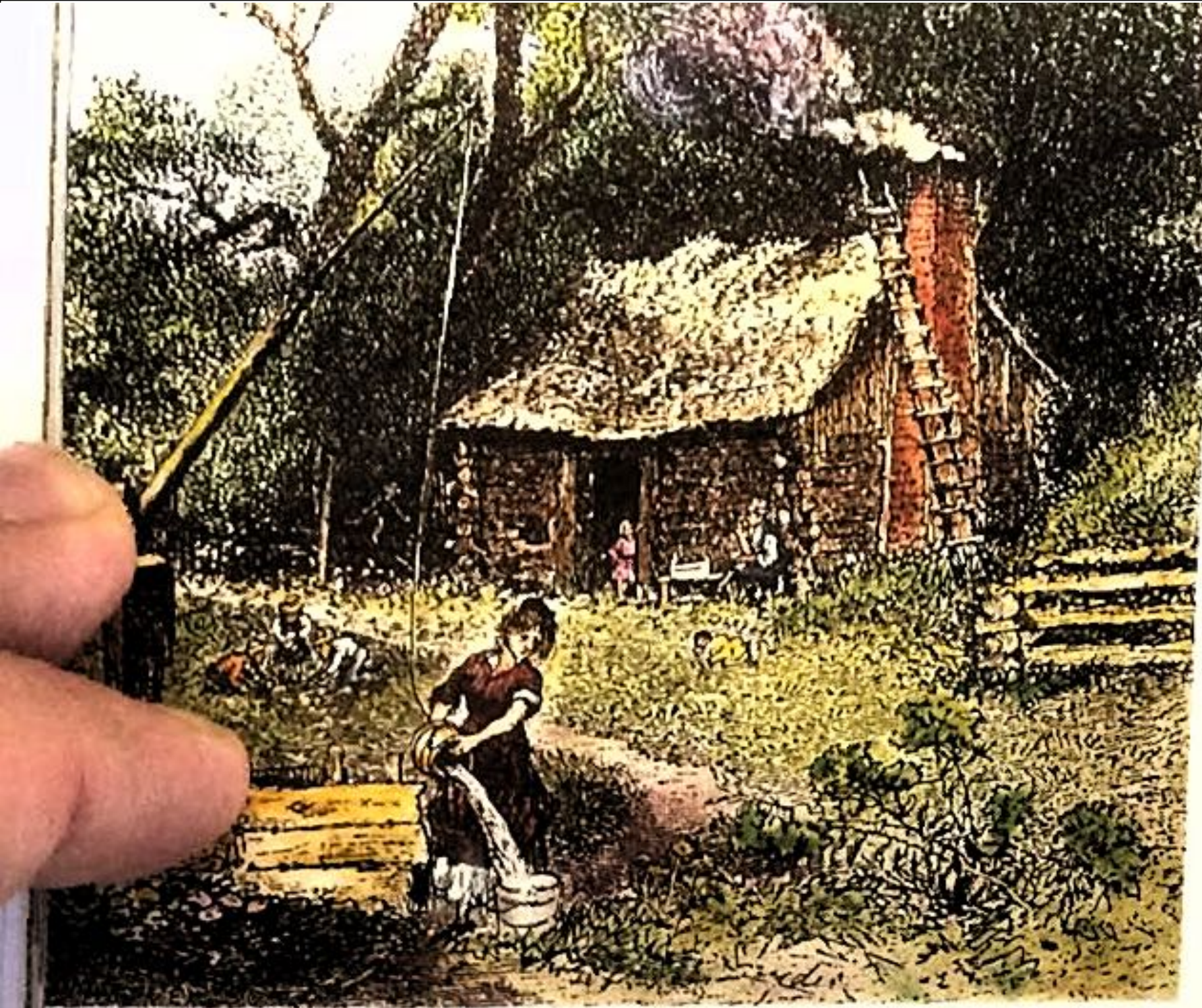
# Living and Working

South Carolina's economy relied on farming and trade. The wealthy plantation owners and merchants at the top of society copied British fashions and ways. They enjoyed afternoon teas and sent their sons to English universities. The wealthy built huge plantation mansions in Charles Town. These mansions were filled with art and expensive furniture. Wealthy colonists threw parties in the summer that featured music and feasts prepared by servants and enslaved workers.



The South Carolina upper class included some of the richest people in the colonies.





Approximately  
1,800 German  
settlers arrived  
in South Carolina  
in 1752.



## Hard Work in the West

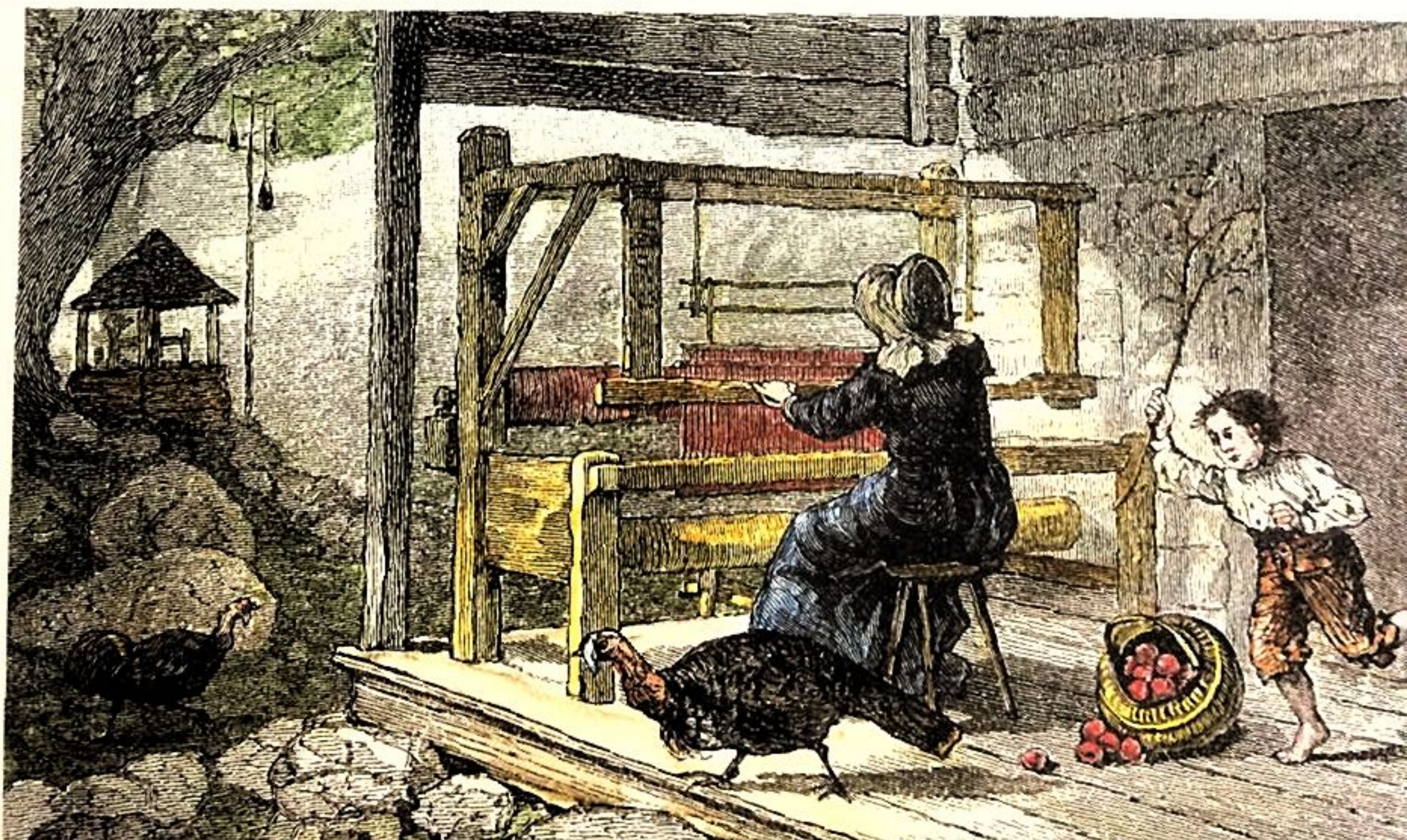
The British government invited new farmers to settle the rural lands west of Charles Town as the 1700s continued. Settlers from Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland took an offer of 50 acres (20 hectares) of land in return for clearing the forest for farms. These farmers worked many hours a day. They lived in cabins or in cottages with dirt floors. Few roads existed to connect farmers to towns or other families.



## Women on the Farm

Farm women cared for the children and the house. They cooked and prepared food for winter storage. They also spun flax and cotton into yarn. Many of them made clothes and kept vegetable gardens. Mothers also cared for the sick. Some women found time to make products such as herbal medicines to sell for extra money.

**Some frontier families were fortunate enough to own a loom to make their own cloth.**





## Men's Work

Few rural farmers owned slaves. The men plowed and planted. They raised livestock and harvested the crops. The men and their sons brought grains such as wheat and maize to nearby mills. The grain was ground into flour for use at home or to sell. Men and boys also hunted deer and other animals in the woods. Meat from their livestock and deer fed the family. Animal skins were made into clothing.



**Building a cabin near a waterway gave a settler access to transportation.**





Enslaved family members were often sold to different owners.

## Slave Life

South Carolina's thousands of enslaved people lived without any rights or freedoms. Owners worked them and sold them as they pleased. The children of slaves were also considered slaves. Slaves could be beaten for failing to work as hard as the owners wanted or simply for speaking without permission.

Owners often hired out their enslaved workers to others. They kept most or all of the slaves' earnings for themselves.